1	2	3	4	5
Elementary Education Classes I.V. (Age Group (6-10)				
Boys	'000	447	447	454
Girls	"	310	310	313
Classes VI-VIII (Age Group 11-13)				
Boys	"	191	191	197
Girls	"	88	88	103
Construction of Niubal Varg Avas . .	No (Cum.)	1666	1666	2344

Modernisation of HAL Bangalore

344. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India needs a modern aircraft factory to manufacture various aircraft required for its defence; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the steps proposed to modernize and augment the production at HAL, Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTIONS AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) There is already an aircraft factory in the shape of M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), where facilities have been established over the last four decades for manufacture of modern aircraft, engines and associated avionics and accessories at its various Divisions.

(b) As and when new aircarft are inducted into the Air Force involving new technologies, facilities at HAL are augmented and updated to take up the manufacture/overhaul of these modern aircraft systems.

Purchase of YAG Medical Lasers' for Army Hospitals.

345. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian army hospitals had recently acquired two "YAG Medical Lasers"; and

(b) if so, what are the various advantages of the use of these lasers compared to the traditional means of surgenry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Laser surgery, compared to the use of the traditional scalpel in surgery, is more precise, as it limits the incision to a fraction of a milimeter, which is vital in Neuro-Surgery. It also has a coagulatory effect since it cauterises whilst making incisions, thereby reducing blood loss. Laser surgery can also be performed in certain circumstances under local anaesthesia, reducing, thereby; the period which the patient needs to remain in hospital.